

Message Text

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EXDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. FRENCH REPORT ON GROMYKO VISIT: GROMYKO STRESSED THE FOLLOWING IN CONVERSATIONS WITH JOBERT:

--CSCE: CERTAIN COUNTRIES ARE USING CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES TO SLOW WORK, AND THE SECOND PHASE IS TOO SLUGGISH;

--MIDDLE EAST: EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT CONTAINS WEAKNESSES BECAUSE IT IS NOT INCORPORATED IN AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT LINKING SUCCESSIVE PHASES;

--BERLIN: THE BEHAVIOR OF THE FRG CONTRADICTS THE QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT, AND THE THREE WESTERN POWERS WISH TO EXACERBATE QUESTIONS RELATING TO BERLIN. (STATE)

2. LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE: SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE FIRST DAY OF THE RESUMED PLENARY WERE:

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A. INVITATIONS TO PARTICIPATE: CONTRARY TO A COMPROMISE THE US DELEGATION THOUGHT WAS WORKED OUT, IT WAS DECIDED

THAT ANY DECISION RELATED TO INVITATIONS TO PARTICIPATE

WOULD BE ADOPTED BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY. THE CONFERENCE IS IN CHAOS, AND WITHOUT RULES OF PROCEDURE THE US IS AT THE MERCY OF A PRIMARILY AFRO-ASIAN/EASTERN EUROPEAN MAJORITY. (STATE)

B. PRG QUESTION: A SOVIET DELEGATE SOUGHT OUT OUR PRINCIPAL DELEGATE AND OFFERED A COMPROMISE PACKAGE ON PARTICIPATION QUESTIONS WHEREBY THE USSR AND ITS ALLIES WOULD SETTLE FOR PRG PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE WITHOUT RIGHT OF VOTE IF THE US WOULD NOT INSIST ON VOTING ON THE PRG SEPARATELY. THERE WAS AN IMPLIED THREAT THAT IF THIS OFFER WAS REJECTED THE SOVIETS WOULD DEMAND VOTING RIGHTS FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. OUR DELEGATE BELIEVES THE SOVIETS HAVE LITTLE INTEREST IN THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CONFERENCE AND ARE PREPARED TO WRECK IT RATHER THAN ACCEPT DEFEAT ON THE PRG ISSUE. HE RECOMMENDS THE USG ACCEPT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL PROVIDING HE CAN OBTAIN SOVIET ASSURANCES OF NO SUBSEQUENT ATTACK ON THE GVN'S STATUS AS A FULL VOTING MEMBER. (STATE)

3. SOVIETS MAY BE INTERESTED IN INDIAN OCEAN NAVAL RESTRAINT: EMBASSY MOSCOW SUGGESTS WE TELL THE SOVIETS AS WELL AS THE INDIAN OCEAN STATES THAT THE US REMAINS WILLING TO CONSIDER US-SOVIET RESTRAINT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. THIS WOULD ENHANCE OUR CREDIBILITY WITH THE LITTORAL STATES AND WOULD RESPOND TO SOVIET PRESS CRITICISM ON US NAVAL OPERATIONS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE DISADVANTAGES TO THIS MOVE ARE THAT PEKING MIGHT BECOME SUSPICIOUS AND MOSCOW MIGHT USE ANY ENSUING DISCUSSIONS TO ARGUE AGAINST DIEGO GARCIA, ALTHOUGH HERE AGAIN THERE MAY BE AN ADVANTAGE IN DISCUSSING LIMITATIONS ON THE PRESENCE OF SHIPS, AS OPPOSED TO INSTALLATIONS, IN THE AREA. (STATE)

4. US-ROK DISCUSSIONS ON UNITED NATIONS COMMAND: AMBASSADOR SCALI CONCURS WITH KOREAN AMBASSADOR PARK THAT IF THE US AND THE ROK ARE UNABLE TO PRESENT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS A CONCRETE PROPOSAL TO RESOLVE THE KO-SECRET

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REAN PROBLEM A HOSTILE UN RESOLUTION AIMED AT BOTH THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND AND US TROOPS STATIONED IN KOREA WILL BE PROPOSED AND PROBABLY ADOPTED. URGENT US-ROK CONSULTATIONS ARE RECOMMENDED, WITH PARK COMMENTING THAT SOME UNDERSTANDING AMONG THE US, PRC, AND THE SOVIET UNION ON THE PROBLEM WILL BE NECESSARY. (STATE)
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